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AUTHOR Liem, Nguyen Dang
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ABSTRACT

In this analysis of cases and clauses in Vietnamese, an attempt is made to make use of tagmemics and a case grammar model called lexicase. Such an eclectic combination of the two theories is not new either in the field of general linguistics or in Vietnamese. This paper recognizes the hierarchical levels in syntax and the grammatical unit or tagmeme as composed of a slot and a filler class; it recognizes the case relations between various nouns and the predicative verb in the clause; and it also recognizes the centrality of the verb. Lexicase introduces both overt case realizations and covert case relations into the grammar as syntactic features assigned to nouns by verbs. The data presented here include: 12 covert case relations in Vietnamese; 11 overt case realizations; a two-dimensional matrix yielding 25 possible combinations of covert case relations and overt case realizations (25 tagmemic slots); 14 verb groupings classed according to their hospitality to case-marked tagmemic slots; five clause types classed according to their identificational-contrastive features such as the nuclear tagmemic slots; 13 clause classes; and a bi-dimensional matrix of the clause types and the clause classes giving 64 possibilities or clause units, of which only 51 are grammatical in Vietnamese. The intention is to present the data rather than to defend the linguistic models used. (Author)

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CASES AND CLAUSES IN VIETNAMESE

Nguyen Dang Liem
University of Hawaii

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0. Introduction

In this analysis of Cases and Clauses in Vietnamese, an attempt will be made to make use of tagmemics (Brend 1970, 1972a, and 1972b, Cook 1969, Longacre 1964, Pike 1954, 1955, 1960, 1966, and 1971) and a case grammar model (Fillmore 1968, 1969, and 1971) called lexicase (Manley 1972, Starosta 1971a, 1971b, 1972a, 1972b, and 1972c, Taylor 1972). Such an eclectic combination of the two theories is not new either in the field of general linguistics (Cook 1970, 1971a, 1971b, and 1972, Heidi Platt 1970, John T. Platt 1971) or in Vietnamese (Liem 1971a, 1971b, and 1972). Case grammar studies on Vietnamese can be found in Clark 1971a and 1971b, Ha 1970, Manley 1969, Taylor 1968, and Tran 1971, and a tagmemic analysis of Vietnamese can be seen in Liem 1969.

In that this paper is tagmemically oriented, it recognizes firstly the hierarchical levels in syntax and secondly the grammatical unit or tagmeme as composed of a slot and a filler class.

The concept of hierarchies in syntax makes it possible to single out and, by the same token, unnecessary to write phrase structure rules (Chomsky 1965) in this paper. The grammatical slot of the tagmeme at the clause level has been pointed out by Becker (Becker 1967a and 1967b), Fries (Fries 1970), and Young, Becker, and Pike (Young, Becker, and Pike 1970) as having not only the overt syntactic relationships (case realizations) but also the covert meaning relationships (case relations) with the predicative verb.

In that this paper is also case grammar oriented, it recognizes the

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the case relations between various nouns and the predicative verb in the clause (or proposition in Fillmore's terminology). However, it also recognizes the centrality of the verb (Chafe 1970). The type of case grammar called lexicase by its developer, Stanley Starosta, as utilized here introduces both overt case realizations and covert case relations into the grammar as syntactic features assigned to nouns by verbs (Starosta 1971a, 1971b, 1972a, and 1972b).

Because this paper intends to present data rather than to defend the linguistic models utilized, theoretical discussions will be kept to their absolute minimum. The reader is also referred to Vietnamese linguistic bibliographies in Thompson 1965, and Thompson and Thomas 1966.

1. Cases

In Vietnamese, there seem to be twelve case relations whose definitions are taken from Fillmore 1968, 1969, and 1971 whenever necessary:

The AGENTIVE (AGT) case: the AGT actant as the "instigator of the event".

The OBJECTIVE (OBJ) case: the OBJ actant is the "most neutral" actant.

The DATIVE (DAT) case: the case of the "animated being affected by the state of, or experiencing the action of the verb".

The BENEFACTIVE (BEN) case: the BEN actant receives the benefit of the action identified by the verb.

The COMITATIVE (COM) case: the COM actant accompanies another actant in the verbal activity or state described.

The INSTRUMENTAL (INS) case.

The LOCATIVE (LOC) case: The LOC actant indicates the location.

The DIRECTIONAL (DIR) case: the DIR actant indicates the direction toward which motion occurs.

The TIME (TIM) case: the TIM actant identifies the time-setting of the action or state identified by the verb.

The SOURCE (SRC) case: the SRC actant indicates the location or time from which action has begun.

The GOAL (GOAL) case: the GOAL actant indicates the location or time toward which action occurs.

The EXTENT (EXT) case: the EXT actant indicates the space or time through which action or state identified by the verb has occurred.

Out of the twelve cases, only the AGENTIVE and OBJECTIVE cases are nuclear in the clause, the DATIVE, BENEFACTIVE, and INSTRUMENTAL cases are semi-nuclear in the sense that they can be hosted only by certain verb classes, and the rest of the cases, COMITATIVE, LOCATIVE, DIRECTIONAL, TIME, SOURCE, GOAL, and EXTANT are satellite in that they occur with most verbs except those otherwise marked.

The twelve covert case relations are pigeon-holed in eleven overt case realizations of which some are marked by their positions vis-a-vis the verb, and some are marked by prepositions. The case realizations are:

NM	Nominative position immediately preceding the verb, no prepositions.
O	Objective position immediately following the verb, no prepositions.
D	Dative realization with preposition cho. (This preposition and all the following ones except với and bằng are co-verbs. For discussion and examples, see Thompson 1965:230-234).
I	Instrumental realization with preposition bằng.
B	Benefactive realization with prepositions giùm or hộ.
C	Comitative realization with preposition với.

L Locative realization with preposition ở.

Di Directional realization with prepositions such as lên, xuống, qua, lại, etc.

SR Source realization with preposition từ.

GL Goal realization with prepositions tới or đến.

EX Extent realization with preposition được.

The twelve covert case relations and the eleven overt case realizations can be charted in a two-dimensional matrix yielding twenty five possibilities as in Chart I below:

CHART I

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		NM	O	D	B	C	I	L	Di	SR	GL	EX
1	AGT	1										
2	OBJ	2	6									
3	DAT	3	7	15								
4	BEN		8	16	17							
5	COM					18						
6	INS	4	9				19					
7	LOC	5	10					20				
8	DIR		11						22			
9	TIM		12									
10	SRC							21		23		
11	GOAL		13								24	
12	EXT		14									25

The twenty five possible combinations of covert case relations and overt case realizations can be arrived at by applying case-related redundancy rules which are not specified here but which can be drawn from the following Chart II.

CHART II

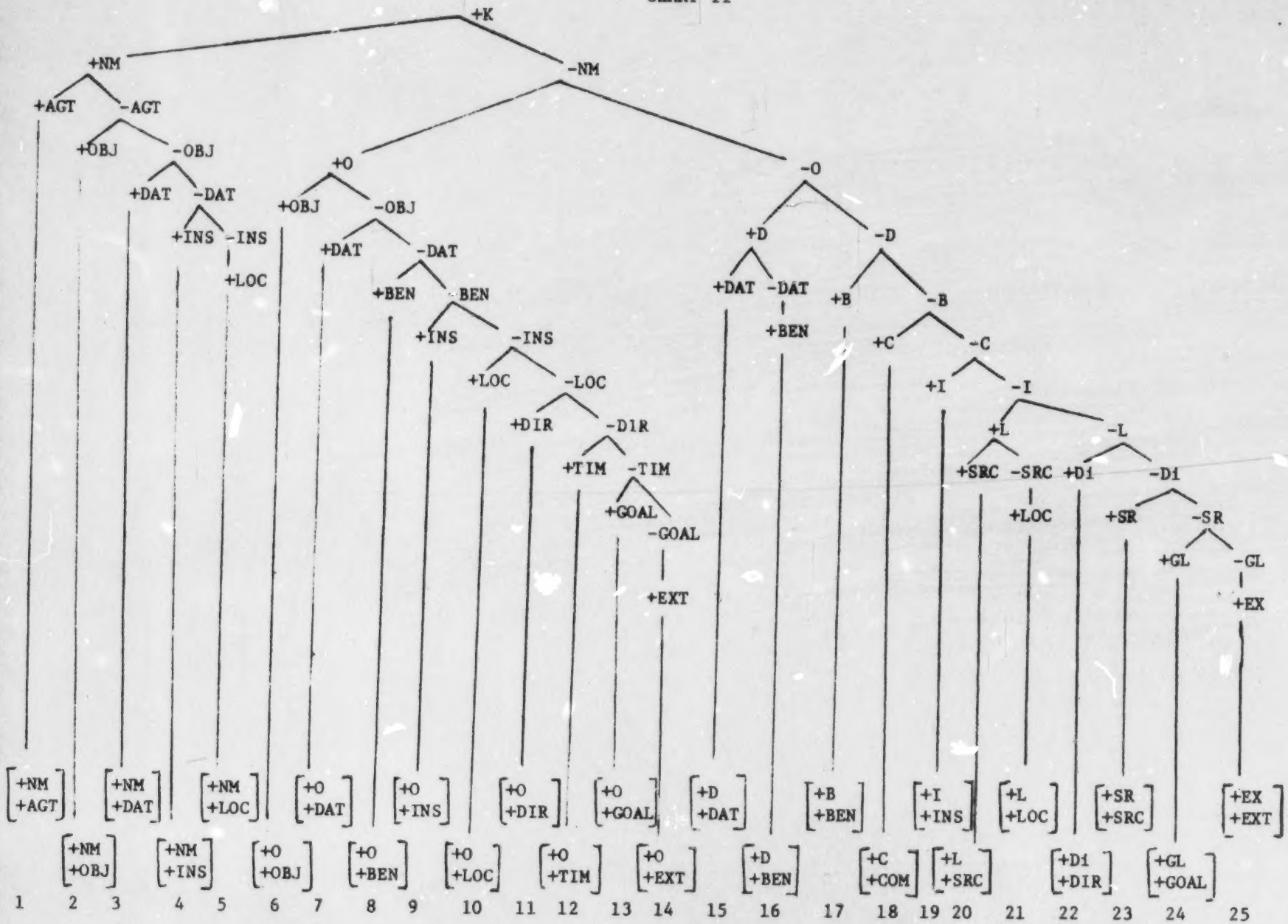

+K
+NM
-NM
+AGT
-AGT
+OBJ
-OBJ
+DAT
-DAT
+INS
-INS
+LOC
+O
-O
+OBJ
-OBJ
+DAT
-DAT
+BEN
-BEN
+INS
-INS
+LOC
-LOC
+DIR
-DIR
+TIM
-TIM
+GOAL
-GOAL
+EXT
+D
-D
+DAT
-DAT
+BEN
+B
-B
+C
-C
+I
-I
+L
-L
+SRC
-SRC
+LOC
+D1
-D1
+SR
-SR
+GL
-GL
+EX
[+NM +AGT]
[+NM +OBJ]
[+NM +DAT]
[+NM +INS]
[+NM +LOC]
[+O +OBJ]
[+O +DAT]
[+O +BEN]
[+O +INS]
[+O +LOC]
[+O +DIR]
[+O +TIM]
[+O +GOAL]
[+O +EXT]
[+D +DAT]
[+D +BEN]
[+B +BEN]
[+C +COM]
[+I +INS]
[+L +SRC]
[+L +LOC]
[+D1 +DIR]
[+SR +SRC]
[+GL +GOAL]
[+EX +EXT]
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Chart II begins with [+K] for case positivity and ends with the twenty five tagmemic slots (covert case relations and overt case realizations) already stated in Chart I in another way. Following are examples of the tagmemic slots, whereas their filler classes will be discussed along with the classification of verbs in Vietnamese:

1. [+NM, +AGT] is hosted by transitive agentive (i.e. -submissive, and -dative) verbs.

1. Ông ấy mua báo.
   he bought newspapers.
   [+NM, +AGT] [+0, +OBJ]

2. [+NM, +OBJ] is hosted by copulative, stative, and intransitive verbs.

2.1. Ông ấy là bác-sĩ.
   he is a doctor.
   [+NM, +OBJ] [-K]

2.2a. Ông ấy chậm lắm.
   he is slow very. (he is very slow)
   [+NM, +OBJ] (Adverb)

2.2b. Ông ấy lạnh lắm.
   he is cold very. (he is very cold)
   [+NM, +OBJ] (Adverb)

2.2c. Ông ấy chết.
   he died.
   [+NM, +OBJ]

2.3a. Ông ấy ở Saigon.
   he stays in Saigon.
   [+NM, +OBJ] [+0, +LOC]

2.3b. Ông ấy ra Saigon.
   he went out to Saigon.
   [+NM, +OBJ] [+0, +DIR]

2.3c. Ông ấy đi Saigon.
   he went to Saigon.
   [+NM, +OBJ] [+0, +DIR]

2.3d. Ông ấy tới Saigon.
he arrived in Saigon.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+0, +GOAL]

3. [+NM, +DAT] is hosted by transitive submissive (bị and được) and transitive dative verbs.

3.1a. Ông ấy bị đi.
he was forced to go.
[+NM, +DAT] [+0, +OBJ]

3.1b. Ông ấy bị họ đánh.
he was forced they beat (he was beaten by them)
[+NM, +DAT] [+0, +OBJ]

3.2a. Ông ấy biết bà ấy.
he knows her.
[+NM, +DAT] [+0, +OBJ]

3.2b. Ông ấy biết (rằng) bà ấy đi rồi.
he knew (that) she had gone already.
[+NM, +DAT] [+0, +OBJ]

3.2c. Ông ấy muốn (rằng) bà ấy đi rồi.
he wanted (that) she went already.
[+NM, +DAT] [+0, +OBJ]

3.2d. Ông ấy muốn (cho) bà ấy đi rồi.
he wished (that) she had gone already.
[+NM, +DAT] [+0, +OBJ]

4. [+NM, +INS] is hosted by transitive agentive and intransitive verbs.

4.1. Dao này cắt thịt.
knife this cuts meat. (this knife cuts meat)
[+NM, +INS] [+0, +OBJ]

It is noted here that only "potent" nouns can occur in the [+NM, +INS] slot.

4.2. Xe này đi Saigon.
vehicle this goes to Saigon. (This vehicle goes to Saigon)
[+NM, +INS] [+0, +DIR]

5. [+NM, +LOC] is hosted by stative verbs.

5. Phòng này lạnh.
room this is cold. (this room is cold)
[+NM, +LOC]

For a special class of nouns occurring in this slot, see Thompson 1965:200–203 who calls them "relator nouns" while Starosta calls similar nouns in Sora "Noun auxiliaries" (Starosta 1967).

6. [+O, +OBJ] is hosted by transitive verbs.

6.1. Ông ấy mua sách.
he bought books.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +OBJ]

6.2. Ông ấy biết chuyện ấy.
he knows story that. (he knows that story)
[+NM, +DAT] [+O, +OBJ]

7. [+O, +DAT] is hosted by ditransitive dative verbs.

7. Ông ấy bán tôi sách.
he sold me books
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +DAT] [+O, +OBJ]

8. [+O, +BEN] is hosted by ditransitive benefactive verbs. It is noted that is construction is always ambigious, and therefore is usually avoided.

8. Ông ấy mua tôi sách.
he bought me books.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +BEN] [+O, +OBJ]
[+O, +DAT]

9. [+O, +INS] is hosted by transitive or intransitive verbs. (Perhaps, there are only special transitive verbs that can host [+O, +INS].)

9.1. Ông ấy dùng dao.
he used knives.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +INS]

9.2. Ông ấy đi xe đò.
he went by bus.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+O, +INS]

10. [+O, +LOC] is hosted by intransitive locative verbs.

10. Ông ấy ở Saigon.
he stays in Saigon. (same as example 2.3a.)
[+NM, +OBJ] [+O, +LOC]

11. [+O, +DIR] is hosted by intransitive directional verbs.

11.1. Ông ấy ra Saigon.
he went out to Saigon.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+O, +DIR] (same as example 2.3b.)

11.2. Ông ấy đi Saigon.
he went to Saigon.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+O, +DIR] (same as example 2.3c.)

12. [+O, +TIM] is hosted by any verb, thus may be considered as being a sentence tagmemic slot and consequently is not a case.

12. Ông ấy đi hôm qua.
he went yesterday.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+O, +TIM]

13. [+O, +GOAL] is hosted by intransitive +goal verbs.

13. Ông ấy tới Saigon.
he arrived in Saigon.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+O, +GOAL] (same as example 2.3d.)

14. [+O, +EXT] is hosted by any verb except those marked otherwise.

14.1. Ông ấy đi hai ngày.
he went for two days.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+O, +EXT]

14.2. Ông ấy đi hai dặm.
he went for two miles.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+O, +EXT]

15. [+D, +DAT] is hosted by transitive agentive verbs.

15. Ông ấy bán sách cho tôi.
he sold books to me.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +OBJ] [+D, +DAT]

16. [+D, +BEN] is hosted by transitive and intransitive verbs. (It is an ambiguous construction because [+D] can be either [+BEN] or [+DAT].)

16.1. Ông ấy mua sách cho tôi.
he bought books for me.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +OBJ] [+D, +BEN] / [+D, +DAT]

16.2. Ông ấy đi cho tôi.
he went for me.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+D, +BEN]

17. [+B, +BEN] is hosted by transitive and intransitive verbs.

17.1. Ông ấy mua sách giùm tôi.
he bought books for me.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +OBJ] [+B, +BEN]

17.2. Ông ấy đi giùm tôi.
he went for me.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+B, +BEN]

18. [+C, +COM] is hosted by any verb except those marked otherwise.

18.1. Ông ấy mua sách với tôi.
he bought books with me.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +OBJ] [+C, +COM]

18.2. Ông ấy đi với tôi.
he went with me.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+C, +COM]

19. [+I, +INS] is hosted by transitive, intransitive, and some stative verbs such as <u>chết</u> 'to die'.

19.1. Ông ấy mua sách bằng tiền Việt-Nam.
he bought books by means of Vietnamese money.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +OBJ] [+I, +INS]

19.2. Ông ấy đi bằng xe đò.
he went by bus.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+I, +INS]

20. [+L, +SRC] is hosted by intransitive verbs, and could be thought of as [+L, +LOC] or even as [+O, +LOC] if ở 'to stay' in the following example were considered as the main verb of the clause.

20. Ông ấy ở Mỹ qua.
he stayed America came over (he came over from America)
[+NM, +OBJ] [+L, +SRC]
[+L, +LOC]
[+O, +LOC]

21. [+L, +LOC] is hosted by any verb except those otherwise marked.

21. Ông ấy mua sách ở Mỹ.
he bought books in America.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +OBJ] [+L, +LOC]

22. [+Di, +DIR] is hosted by transitive and intransitive verbs.

22.1. Ông ấy đem sách lên Saigon.
he brought books up to Saigon.
[+NM, +AGT] [+O, +OBJ] [+Di, +DIR]

22.2. Ông ấy đi lên Saigon.
he went up to Saigon.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+Di, +DIR]

23. [+SR, +SRC] is hosted by all verbs if it means a time source, and by most verbs except those marked otherwise if it means a place source.

23.1. Ông ấy đi từ Mỹ.
he went from America.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+SR, +SRC]

23.2. Ông ấy đi từ hôm qua.
he went since yesterday.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+SR, +SRC]

24. [+GL, +GOAL] is hosted by all verbs if it means a time goal, and is hosted by most verbs except those marked otherwise if it means a place goal.

24.1. Ông ấy đi tới hai giờ.
he went till two o'clock.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+GL, +GOAL]

24.2. Ông ấy đi tới Saigon.
he went to (and arrived at) Saigon.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+GL, +GOAL]

25. [+EX, +EXT] is hosted by all verbs if it means a time extent, and is hosted by most verbs except those otherwise marked when it means a place extent.

25.1. Ông ấy đi được hai giờ.
he went for two hours.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+EX, +EXT]

25.2. Ông ấy đi được hai dặm.
he went for two miles.
[+NM, +OBJ] [+EX, +EXT]

Theoretically, given a verb that is hospitable to all the tagmemic slots, all the twenty five slots could appear in one single clause. However, because what is already known in larger linguistic or situational contexts is not necessarily repeated, only some of them occur in the same clause. When they co-occur in the same clause, there seems to be a relative order of case realizations as follows, with the ones on vertical lines being fluctuant among themselves:

				+B				
+L	+NM	+verb	+O	+I	+C	+SR	+GL	+EX
				+D			+Di	

When there are many case realizations in a clause, one of them, and usually the time case realization, is topicalized and moved to the front position of the clause.

Any clause level slot, whether neclear such as the [+NM, +AGT], or semi-nuclear such as the [+O, +DIR], or satellite such as the [+T, +TIM]

can be omitted when it is clearly understood in higher linguistic hierarchies than the clause itself. For example, the reply in this two-sentence conversation does not have its [+NM, +OBJ] because it is clearly understood:

Ông đi không?
you go no? (are you going?)
+NM
+OBJ

Đi.
go. (yes, I am going)

2. Verbs

According to their hospitality to case-marked tagmemic slots, verbs in Vietnamese can be classified into fourteen groups as indicated in Chart III. The fourteen verbs representative of their classes will be listed below with their hospitable case-marked tagmemic slots. It is noted that all of the case-marked tagmemic slots, except the slot [+O, +OBJ] hosted by submissive verbs, are filled by noun phrases. When they can be filled by other than noun phrases, they will be so indicated below. Numbers will refer to the examples found earlier in this paper.

1. là 'be'

[+[+NM,+OBJ]___[-K]]

{ noun phrase
  verb phrase
  clause
  prepositional phrase }

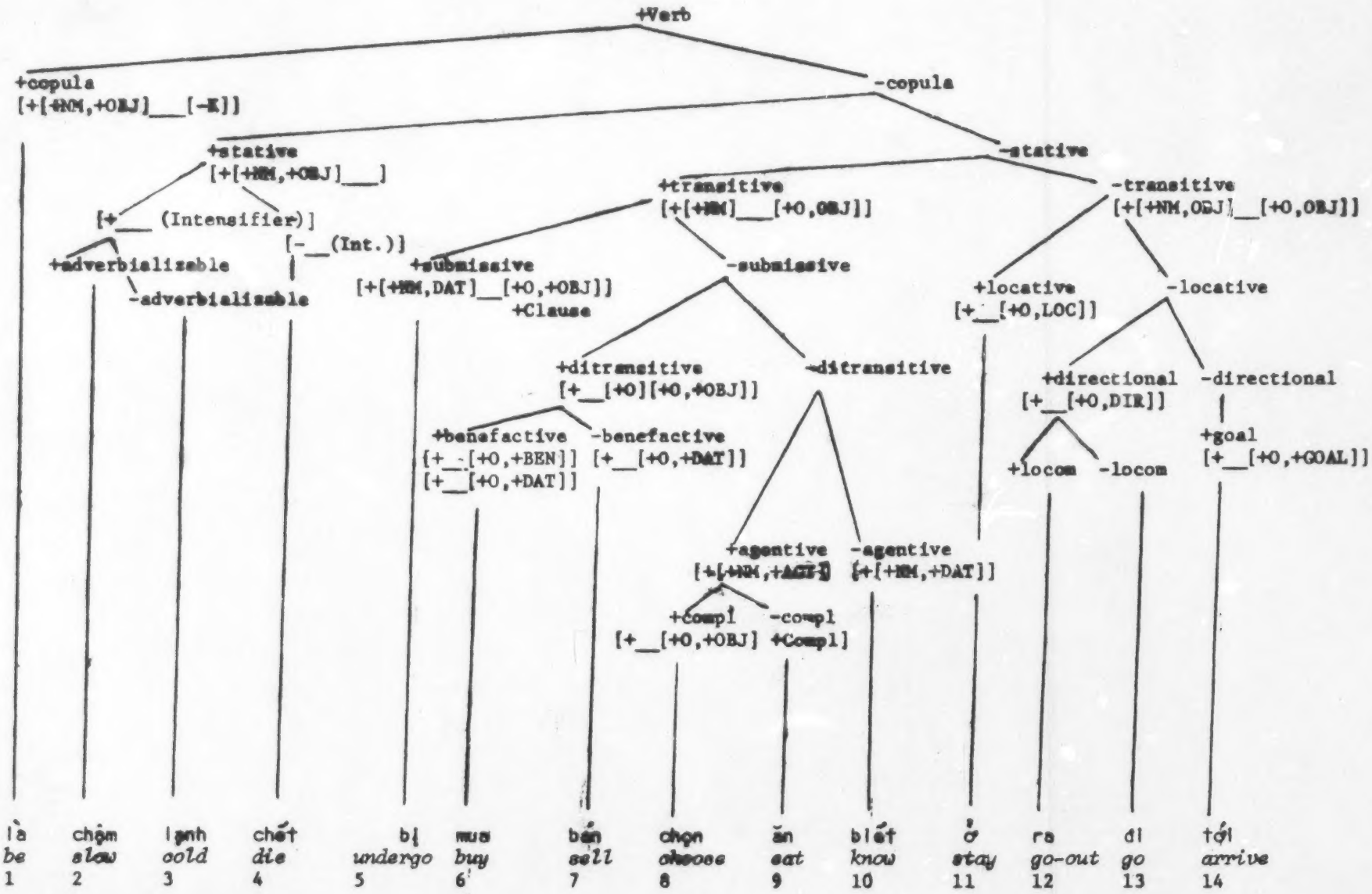
Example 2.1.

Đi là chết.
to go is to die.

Ông Ba đi là phải.
Mr. Ba's going is right (the right thing)

Từ đây đến đó là hai dặm.
from here to there is two miles.

CHART III


+Verb
+copula
[+[+NM,+OBJ]__[-E]]
-copula
+stative
[+[+NM,+OBJ]__]
-stative
[+__ (Intensifier)]
[-__(Int.)]
+transitive
[+[+NM]__[+O,OBJ]]
-transitive
[+[+NM,OBJ]__[+O,OBJ]]
+adverbializable
-adverbializable
+submissive
[+[+NM,DAT]__[+O,+OBJ]]
+Clause
-submissive
+locative
[+__[+O,LOC]]
-locative
+ditransitive
[+__[+O][+O,+OBJ]]
-ditransitive
+directional
[+__[+O,DIR]]
-directional
+benefactive
[+__[+O,+BEN]]
[+__[+O,+DAT]]
-benefactive
[+__[+O,+DAT]]
+goal
[+__[+O,+GOAL]]
+locom
-locom
+agentive
[+[+NM,+AGT]]
-agentive
[+[+NM,+DAT]]
+compl
[+__[+O,+OBJ]
-compl
+Compl]
là be 1
chậm slow 2
lạnh cold 3
chết die 4
bị undergo 5
mua buy 6
bán sell 7
chọn choose 8
ăn eat 9
biết know 10
ở stay 11
ra go-out 12
đi go 13
tới arrive 14

2. chậm 'slow', stative, adverbializable.

[+[+NM,+OBJ]___(Intensifier)] Example 2.2a.

Adverbializable as in:

Ông ấy đi chậm.
he went slowly.

3. lạnh 'cold', stative, not adverbializable.

[+[+NM,+OBJ]___(Intensifier)] Example 2.2b.

4. chết 'die', stative, cannot be followed by adverbs. (There are also reasons to classify these verbs in the intransitive group).

[+[+NM,+OBJ]___] Example 2.2c.

5. bị 'to be adversely affected', transitive submissive.

[+[+NM,+DAT]___[+O,+OBJ]]

{clause} Examples 3.1a and 3.1b.

6. mua 'buy', ditransitive, +BEN.

[+[+NM,+AGT]___[+O,+BEN +DAT] [+O,+OBJ]] Example 8.

7. bán 'sell', ditransitive, +DAT.

[+[+NM,+AGT]___[+O,+DAT] [+O,+OBJ]] Example 7.

8. chọn 'choose', transitive, ±complement.

[+[+NM,+AGT]___[+O,+OBJ] +complement] Example:

Ông ấy	chọn	bà ấy	làm đại-diện.
he	chose	her	to be representative
[+NM +AGT]		[+O +OBJ]	+complement

9. ăn 'eat', transitive, -complement.

[+[+NM,+AGT]___[+O,+OBJ]] Example: Ông ấy ăn thịt.
he eats meat.

10. biết 'know', transitive dative.

[+[+NM,+DAT]___[+O,+OBJ]]

{noum phr.} Example 3.2a.

{clause} Examples 3.2b, 3.2c, and 3.2d.

A sub-classification of this group of verb can be done according to whether their objective clause can be introduced by rằng 'that' as

is the case of biết 'know' in example 3.2b or by either by rằng 'that' or cho 'so that' as is the case of muốn 'want' in examples 3.2c and 3.2d.

11. ở 'stay at, live at, be at', intransitive, locational.
[+[+NM,+OBJ]___[+O,+LOC]] Example 2.3a.

12. ra 'go out', intransitive, directional, +locomotion.
[+[+NM,+OBJ]___[+O,+DIR]] Example 2.3b.

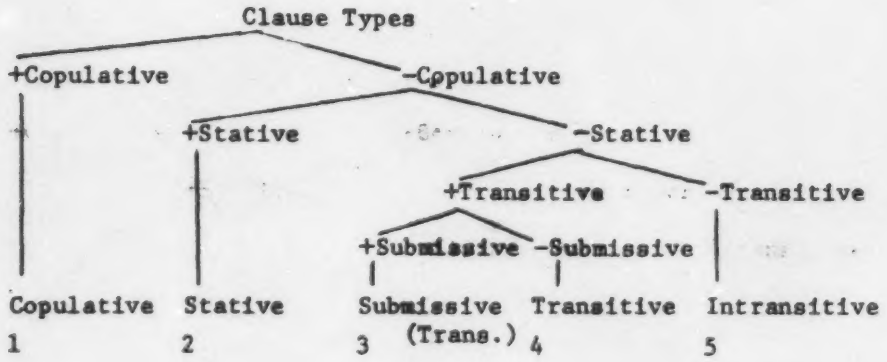
13. đi 'go', intransitive, directional, -locomotion.
[+[+NM,+OBJ]___[+O,+DIR]] Example 2.3c.

14. tới 'arrive', intransitive, +goal.
[+[+NM,+OBJ]___[+O,+GOAL]] Example 2.3d.

3. Clause Types

According to their identificational-contrastive features such as the nuclear tagmemic slots (Longacre 1964), clauses in Vietnamese can be classified into five types as in Chart IV below.

CHART IV



It is noted that the classification of clauses into clause types is parallel to that of verbs in Chart III, and that the five clause types can be subclassified into fourteen allo-types just like verbs are classified into fourteen groups.

For reading convenience, examples of the five clause types are repeated below. Only pertinent tagmemic slots and pseudo-features of verbs will be given.

1. Copulative Clause Type: Ông ấy là bác-sĩ.
   he is a doctor.
   (Example 2.1) [+NM +OBJ] [+verb +copula] [-K]

2. Stative Clause Type: Ông ấy chết.
   he died.
   (Example 2.2c) [+NM +OBJ] [+verb +stative]

3. Submissive Clause Type: Ông ấy bị họ đánh.
   he was forced they beat
   (Example 3.1b) he was beaten by them.
   (See also Nguyen Dinh-Hoa 1972.) [+NM +DAT] [+verb +trans +subm] [+0 +OBJ]

4. Transitive Clause Type: Ông ấy mua báo.
   he bought newspapers.
   (Example 1) [+NM +AGT] [+verb +trans] [+0 +OBJ]

5. Intransitive Clause Type: Ông ấy ở Saigon.
   he stays in Saigon.
   (Example 2.3a) [+NM +OBJ] [+verb -trans +loc] [+0 +LOC]

4. Clause Classes

Besides the dimension of clause types, there is also the dimension of clause classes. The thirteen clause classes in Vietnamese are stated in Chart V below.

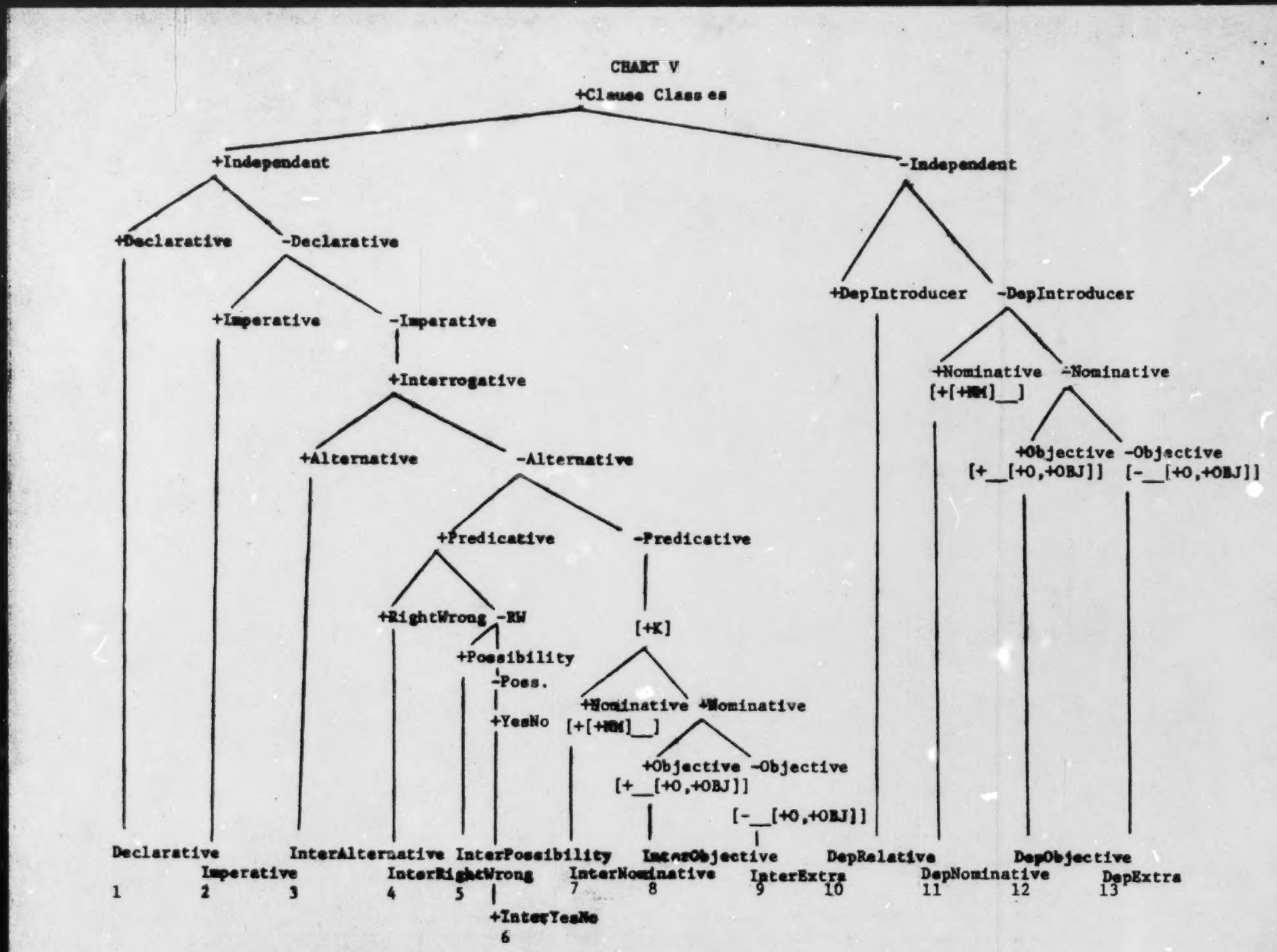


CHART V
+Clause Classes
+Independent
-Independent
+Declarative
-Declarative
+Imperative
-Imperative
+Interrogative
+Alternative
-Alternative
+Predicative
-Predicative
+RightWrong
-RW
+Possibility
-Poss.
+YesNo
[+K]
+Nominative
+Nominative
[+[+NM]__]
+Objective
-Objective
[+__[+O,+OBJ]]
[-__[+O,+OBJ]]
+DepIntroducer
-DepIntroducer
+Nominative
-Nominative
[+[+NM]__]
+Objective
-Objective
[+__[+O,+OBJ]]
[-__[+O,+OBJ]]
Declarative
Imperative
InterAlternative
InterRightWrong
+InterYesNo
InterPossibility
InterNominative
InterObjective
InterExtra
DepRelative
DepNominative
DepObjective
DepExtra
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13

1. Declarative Clause Class. It is the kernel clause class from which all the other eleven clause classes are derived when appropriate transform rules (Longacre 1964) are applied. All the examples so far given are declarative clauses. The example below will serve as kernel for all the derived clause classes.

Ông ấy	mua	báo.
he	bought	newspapers.
[+NM +AGT]	[+verb +trans]	[+0 +OBJ]

2. Imperative Clause Class. Its clauses are identified by their imperative predicate (i.e. having hãy 'would better', đừng 'would better not, etc.)

Ông	hãy	mua	báo.
You (Mr.)	'd better	buy	newspapers.
	[+imperative]		

3. Interrogative Alternative Clause Class. Its clauses have one of their tagmemes alternated by a similar one.

Ông ấy	mua	báo	hay	sách?
Did he	buy	newspapers	or	books?
		[+0 +OBJ]	[+alt]	[+0 +OBJ]

4. Interrogative Right-Wrong Clause Class. Its clauses have a right-wrong interrogative phrase at the end.

Ông ấy	mua	báo,	phải	không?	
he bought	newspapers		right	not?	(he bought newspapers, didn't he?)
			[+RightWrong]		

5. Interrogative Possibility Clause Class. Its clauses have a possible-impossible interrogative phrase at the end.

Ông ấy	mua	báo,	được	không?	
he bought	newspapers		possible	not	(he bought newspapers, OK?)
			[+Possibility]		

6. Interrogative Yes-No Clause Class. Its clauses have a negative interrogative phrase at the end.

Ông ấy	mua	báo	không?	
he	buy	books	no	(Does he buy newspapers?)

7. Interrogative Nominative Clause Class. Its clauses have an interrogative nominative actant.

Ai mua báo?
who bought newspapers?
[+NM, +AGT, +Interr]

8. Interrogative Objective Clause Class. Its clauses have an interrogative objective actant.

Ông ấy mua gì?
he bought what?
[+O, +OBJ, +Interr]

9. Interrogative-Extra Clause Class. Its clauses have an interrogative satellite actant, for example Time:

Ông ấy mua báo hồi nào?
he bought newspapers when? (when did he buy newspapers?)
[+T, +TIM, +Interr]

10. Dependent Relative Clause Class. Its clauses are introduced by <u>rằng</u> 'that' or <u>cho</u> 'so that', and fill the Objective slot of the embedding clause.

Ông ấy nói (rằng) ông ấy mua báo.
he said (that) he bought newspapers.
[+NM, +DAT] [+O, +OBJ]

11. Dependent Nominative Clause Class. Its clauses have a dependent nominative actant which may be omitted.

Người (mà) mua báo....
the person that bought newspapers...
[+NM, +AGT, +Dep]

12. Dependent Objective Clause Class. Its clauses have a dependent objective actant which may be omitted and which is pre-posed to the position before the nominative actant when present.

Báo (mà) ông ấy mua...
the newspapers (that) he bought...
[+O, +OBJ, +Dep]

13. Dependent-Extra Clause Class. Its clauses have a dependent satellite actant, for example Time, which is pre-posed to the position before the nominative actant or omitted all together.

Ngày (mà) ông ấy mua báo...
the day when he bought newspapers...
[+T, +TIM, +Dep]

5. Clause Units

The five Clause Types and the twelve Clause Classes form a bi-dimentional matrix giving sixty four possibilities or Clause Units of which only fifty one are grammatical in Vietnamese. The 51 Clause Units are listed in the following Chart VI.

Chart VI

Clause Types \ Clause Classes		1 Declarative	2 Imperative	3 InterAlter$_n$	4 InterRWrong	5 InterPossib	6 InterYesNo	7 InterNM	8 InterOBJ	9 InterExtra	10 DepRelative	11 DepNM	12 DepOBJ	DepExtra
1	Copulative	X		X	X			X		X	X	X		X
2	Stative	X	(X)	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X
3	Submissive	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
4	Transitive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5	Intransitive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X

(X). Some Stative verbs can be used in imperative forms.

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